



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

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## Schools in seven Wisconsin metro areas rated highly

MADISON—Seven metropolitan areas of Wisconsin are in the top 25 metros for public schools in the country, according to a survey ranking U.S. school districts with 3,300 students or more. The survey was conducted by *Expansion Management Magazine*, a monthly business publication for executives of companies that are actively looking to expand or relocate facilities within the next three years. The seven metropolitan areas of Wisconsin—Sheboygan (5), Eau Claire (7), Madison (8), Wausau (11), Appleton (16), Oshkosh-Neenah (20), and Fond du Lac (24)—appeared in a list of the 25 *Top Metros for Public Schools*. Schools in these areas, plus Green Bay and La Crosse, were named to the magazine's 5-Star Public Schools Metros list.

"I am extremely proud of Wisconsin teachers and students for their dedication to quality teaching and learning, and their hard work shows in this survey of the best metropolitan school systems in the nation," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Our students, overall, consistently score among the very best in the nation on the major college entrance exams and high school graduation rates. This affirmation of the quality of Wisconsin schools from an independent, unbiased study, underscores our students' dedication to excellence in learning and academic achievement, and the support they receive from their teachers, families, and communities.

"Public education in Wisconsin is moving forward, supported by our early learning and class-size reduction programs. This recognition tells us that we are on the right track and must continue to invest in education, pre-kindergarten through university. Our sustained efforts as students, educators, parents, community volunteers, and citizens will ensure that our students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education, the workplace, and as citizens of our 21st century global society," she said.

(more)

The magazine rated the metro area schools as a way of providing a basis for executives to compare the type of work force they are likely to encounter in various communities around the country. Using the data from its 15th annual Education Quotient ratings, which compared 2,800 secondary school districts throughout the country, Expansion Management grouped school districts into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MPAs). Public schools in those 362 MPAs were compared according to a variety of categories, including college admission test scores, graduation rates, beginning and average teacher salaries, per pupil expenditures, and student-teacher ratio.

Bill King, chief editor of *Expansion Management Magazine*, speaking to the importance of quality schools to business success, said, "Today's workers, most of whom are high school graduates, must possess skills far beyond those needed just a generation ago. Clearly, the quality of the public schools is a pretty good indicator of the type of manufacturing work force a company is likely to encounter in a particular community."

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**NOTE:** A list of the Best Overall U.S. Metros for Public Schools with 3,300 students or more, according to Expansion Management magazine, follows.

## Top Metros for Public Schools

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. State College, Pa.   | 14. Grand Forks, N.D.-Minn.               |
| 2. Ithaca, N.Y.         | 15. Billings, Mont.                       |
| 3. Lawrence, Kan.       | 16. Appleton, Wis.                        |
| 4. Iowa City, Iowa      | 17. Bloomington, Ind.                     |
| 5. Sheboygan, Wis.      | 18. Flagstaff, Ariz.                      |
| 6. Charlottesville, Va. | 19. Glens Falls, N.Y.                     |
| 7. Eau Claire, Wis.     | 20. Oshkosh-Neenah, Wis.                  |
| 8. Madison, Wis.        | 21. Blacksburg-Christianburg-Radford, Va. |
| 9. Columbia, Mo.        | 22. Jonesboro, Ark.                       |
| 10. Harrisonburg, Va.   | 23. Burlington-South Burlington, Vt.      |
| 11. Wausau, Wis.        | 24. Fond du Lac, Wis.                     |
| 12. Ames, Iowa          | 25. Ocean City, N.J.                      |
| 13. Missoula, Mont.     |   |